

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): An air-cooling/tempering method for air-cooling and tempering a glass plate, comprising:

providing a transferring device configured to transfer glass plates sequentially through an air-blowing area and a plurality of air-blowing heads positioned along the transferring device such that air is blown to upper faces and lower faces of the glass plates, the air-blowing area being divided into a plurality of areas along a transferring direction of the transferring device;

stopping blowing of air in the air-blowing area at an uppermost stream area in the transferring direction from the beginning of a transfer of a glass plate into the air-blowing area;

starting the blowing of air in the uppermost stream area when an entirety of the glass plate is transferred into the uppermost stream area; and

stopping the blowing of air in the uppermost stream area of the air-blowing area after the entirety of the glass plate has been transferred from the uppermost stream area to a downstream side of the air-blowing area.

wherein the transferring device comprises a plurality of tempering rollers configured to move vertically at a position where the glass plate is being transferred with the transfer of the glass plate so that a curved plane is formed in at least a portion of a transferring plane formed by the tempering rollers at the position, the curved plane being in correspondence with a curved shape of the glass plate in the transferring direction of the glass plate; the plurality of tempering rollers are configured to sequentially moved vertically with the transfer

of the glass plate so that the curved plane is shifted in the transferring direction of the glass plate with the transfer of the glass plate, and the plurality of air-blowing heads are each disposed between adjacent tempering rollers of the plurality of tempering rollers and configured to move vertically so as to correspond to the vertical movement of each of the plurality of tempering rollers, respectively.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The air-cooling/tempering method according to Claim 6, wherein the plurality of areas in the air-blowing area comprises a first area at an upper stream side in the transferring direction and a second area at the downstream side thereof, and wherein the blowing of air starts in the first and second areas when the entirety of the glass plate is transferred into the first area, the blowing of air stops in the first area when the entirety of the glass plate is passed through the first area and the blowing of air restarts in the first area when an entirety of a subsequent glass plate is transferred into the first area.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The air-cooling/tempering method according to Claim 6, wherein the blowing of air from all the plurality of areas starts when the entirety of the glass plate is transferred into the air-blowing area, the blowing of air stops in a sequential order of areas through which the glass plate is passed, the blowing of air restarts from all the plurality of areas when an entirety of a subsequent glass plate is transferred into an areas to which the blowing of air is stopped, and the blowing of air stops in a sequential order of areas through which the subsequent glass plate is passed.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The air-cooling/tempering method according to Claim 6, wherein the blowing of air is carried out from only an area which corresponds to a position of the glass plate during the transfer when the entirety of the glass plate is being transferred in the air-blowing area.

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Claims 10-13 (canceled)